(a) whether the Government propose to divert the surplus water of river Brahmaputra to other regions in the country;

(b) if so, the States to which the water is to be diverted;

(c) the percentage of water received from the river being utilised at present alongwith the percentage of unutilised water which flows into the sea;

(d) whether the Government have prepared any scheme so far to make the full utilisation of the surplus water of the river;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the estimated cost involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (f). A National Perspective for Water Resources Development prepared by the Government, among other links, envisages inter-linkages between Brahmaputra-Ganga-Mahanadi for the purpose of transferring waters from surplus basins to the deficit basins. Considering that only a very small fraction of Brahmaputra water (less than 2 per cent) is utilised and the rest flows into the sea, the National Water Development Agency has confined the studies to the assessment of water availability in Brahmaputra and its tributaries, namely, Manas and Sankosh to determine the quantum of surplus water available for transferring and topcsheet examination of links and reservoirs. Separately, it has carried out preliminary feasibility studies for inter-linking Mahanadi-Godavari and Krishna under the Peninsular Component. In the absence of detailed project reports, aspects like benefits to different regions, outlays required, completion schedule and cost involved cannot be quantified.

Tourism Potential in Arunachal Pradesh and North Eastern Region

4064. SHRI LAETA UMBREY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is tremendous tourism potential in Arunachal Pradesh and the other North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken for its promotion;

(c) whether any Act is required to be amended for allowing foreign tourists in the region; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the Act is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The promotion of tourism in any specific State is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, the Central Government provide assistance by way of publicity and financial support to specific schemes subject to availability of funds.

(c) and (d). Foreigners are not allowed to visit some parts of North Eastern States without special permission under the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963 and Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958. This restriction is reviewed from time to time and suitable relaxations are made to increase the flow of foreign tourists to the region.

Postal Facilities in Tamil Nadu

4065. SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Tamil Nadu without postal facilities as on December 31, 1991;

(b) the number of villages in which proposals for setting up postal facilities are pending; and

(c) the reasons for delay and by when these facilities are likely to be provided in rest of the villages?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) None. Though 6206 villages in Tamil Nadu lack Post Office facility, their postal requirement is fully met through the existing postal network of the State.

(b) The opening of new Post Offices in rural areas in an on-going activity under the annual plans. During current year, so far 33 Post Offices have already been sanctioned and 4 more are being sanctioned.

(c) In view of (b) above, does not arise.

Encroachment upon Land of I.A.A.I. in Bombay

4066. SHRI RAM NAIK. Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land belonging to the International Airport Authority of India (IAAI) in Bombay;

(b) whether the land owned by IAAI has been encroached upon by the slum dwellers; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to clear the encroachment?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) 1875 acres.

(b) Yes, Sir. Currently about 200 acres of IAAI land at Bombay is encroached.

(c) A number of meetings have been held between senior officers of IAAI, Ministry of Civil Aviation and State authorities to draw up a plan for clearance of slum from IAAI land. About 200 acres of land has been proposed for acquisition by the Government of Maharashtra for purposes of resettling the encroachers. IAAI has already paid Rs. one crore to Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority as advance towards this work in 1987. The acquisition proceedings of the land have been held up due to litigation.

[*Translation*]

Daltonganj Doordarshan Centre in Bihar

4067. SHRI RAMDEV RAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state.

(a) whether a population of only 5 lakhs, out of the total population of 26 lakhs of Palamu district, is getting the benefit from Daltonganj Doordarshan centre in Bihar,

(b) whether the people of Garwa Nagar, Bhavnathpur, Latehar, Chandra, Balumath, Japla and Hussainabad are not able to view the telecast properly; and

(c) is so, the time by which it is proposed to increase the range of the Centre?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (c). The high power TV transmitter at Daltonganj was initially commissioned on reduced power of 1KW, as an interim set-up